

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 TRSE-00 MBFR-04 SAJ-01 DODE-00 OMB-01 EB-11

ACDA-19 IO-13 SCA-01 NIC-01 DRC-01 /156 W

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R 241814Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7619

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 13824

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: GW, GE, PFOR, UK, FR

SUBJECT: FRG-GDR RELATIONS: ADDITIONAL POINTS IN BAHR-
KOHL TALKS, SEPTEMBER 13

REF: (A) BONN 13364; (B) BONN 13739

1. SUMMARY. IN TALK WITH EMBOFF SEPTEMBER 24, FRG
CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF
BAHR-KOHL TALKS ON SEPTEMBER 13 AND GAVE HIS PROGNOSIS
OF THE LIKELY COURSE OF FRG-GDR RELATIONS IN COMING
MONTHS. HE ALSO DESCRIBED THE FRG UNDERSTANDING OF
FRENCH AND UK PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE TIMING OF
THESE COUNTRIES SENDING AMBASSADORS TO EAST BERLIN.
END SUMMARY.

2. CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL SAID THAT, IN CONTRAST WITH
THE GDR'S RECENT OUTBURSTS AGAINST EXFILTRATION OF EAST
GERMANS AND WITH KOHL'S OWN AGGRESSIVE APPROACH AT THE
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AUGUST 23 MEETING (BONN 12345), THE EAST GERMAN REP HAD

TAKEN A MORE RELAXED STANCE AT THE LAST SESSION WITH BAHR. WHEN THE TOPIC CAME UP, KOHL SUGGESTED THAT IT BE HANDLED BY BAHR'S AND KOHL'S PRINCIPAL ASSISTANTS, SANNE AND SEIDEL. THE LATTER HAD A BRIEF AND GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM IN WHICH SEIDEL REFRAINED FROM MAKING ANY THREATENING NOISES AND SIMPLY ASKED THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DO WHAT IT COULD TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM. (FYI. CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL TOLD US THAT RECENT INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETINGS IN BONN TO TRY TO WORK OUT SOME MEASURES TO DISCOURAGE PROFESSIONAL EXFILTRATORS HAD PROVED QUITE INEFFECTIVE SO FAR. END FYI.)

3. BAHR HAD RAISED THE MATTER OF CIVIL AVIATION WITH KOHL, DESPITE THE FACT HE HAD NO BRIEFING PAPER ON THIS SUBJECT AND THE FACT THAT THE FRG POSITION IS STILL FAR FROM ESTABLISHED. KOHL REPORTEDLY GAVE A NON-COMMITTAL REPLY ALTHOUGH HE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE THAT DISCUSSION OF ALL THE SUBJECTS FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATION MENTIONED IN THE PROTOCOL TO THE GENERAL RELATIONS TREATY SHOULD TAKE PLACE SOON.

4. THE KEY POINT IN THE BAHR-KOHL DISCUSSION CONCERNED, OF COURSE, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PERMANENT MISSIONS IN BONN AND EAST BERLIN, AND IN THIS AREA THE GDR REP CONTINUED TO TAKE THE HARD LINE ADOPTED IN AUGUST.

5. OUR CHANCELLERY CONTACT SAID THAT THE DIFFICULT GDR POSITION, I.E., REQUIRING THAT THE MISSIONS BE ACCREDITED TO THE RESPECTIVE FOREIGN MINISTRIES, WAS LESS ONE OF STATUS FOR THE FRG AND MORE ONE OF PRACTICALITY. FOR ONE THING, THE CHANCELLERY WANTED TO HAVE A COORDINATING AND SUPERVISORY ROLE OVER THE CONTACTS THE GDR REPS WOULD TRY TO ESTABLISH WITH THE VARIOUS MINISTRIES IN BONN. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, AS ONE AMONG MANY MINISTRIES, COULD NOT EFFECTIVELY CARRY OUT THIS FUNCTION. OUR SOURCE ADDED THAT THERE WAS ALSO, OF COURSE, A CERTAIN CHANCELLERY-FOREIGN MINISTRY RIVALRY INVOLVED IN THE MATTER, WITH SPD INNER-GERMAN AFFAIRS MINISTER FRANKE ALSO UNWILLING TO SEE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TAKE OVER AN AREA THAT HE THOUGHT SHOULD BE-CONFIDENTIAL

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LONG TO HIS OWN MINISTRY OR TO THE CHANCELLERY.

6. THE CHANCELLERY OFFICIAL SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE PRESENT IMPASSE MIGHT LAST ANOTHER COUPLE OF MEETINGS. (THE NEXT BAHR-KOHL ROUND IS SET FOR OCTOBER 4.) HE THOUGHT THE GDR MIGHT THEN BEGIN TO MOVE, PERHAPS UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE SOVIETS. HE INDICATED THAT FONMIN SCHEEL MIGHT RAISE THE MATTER IN MOSCOW DURING

HIS VISIT IN EARLY NOVEMBER IF THERE HAD BEEN NO
PROGRESS BY THEN. OUR SOURCE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT
TECHNICAL AND PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS ON THE FRG SIDE
(E.G., HAVING THE LAW ON DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES AND
IMMUNITIES FOR THE GDR OFFICIALS COMPLETE ITS COURSE
THROUGH THE LEGISLATURE WOULD REQUIRE TWO TO THREE
MONTHS, SO THAT EVEN IF THE GDR SHOWED WILLINGNESS TO
NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY IN OCTOBER, IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE

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MISSIONS COULD BE OPENED BY THE END OF THE YEAR.

7. EMBOFF ASKED WHAT THIS TIMETABLE WOULD DO TO THE
FRENCH AND UK WHO WERE PRESSING FOR EARLY INSTALLATION
OF THEIR AMBASSADORS IN EAST BERLIN. THE CHANCELLERY
OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE GERMAN EMBASSIES IN PARIS AND
LONDON WERE REPORTING THAT THE PRESSURES FOR AMBASSADORS
TO GO TO EAST BERLIN WERE NOT NEARLY AS GREAT AS THE
FRENCH AND UK AMBASSADORS IN BONN WERE MAKING OUT (E.G.,

SEE PARA L, REFTEL (B)). THE GDR HAD SOUGHT FRENCH AGREEMENT LAST WEEK FOR AN AMBASSADOR TO PARIS BUT THE FRENCH WERE INDICATING THAT THEY WOULD BE IN NO HURRY TO GRANT IT. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE, THE FRENCH WERE TENDING TOWARD THE VIEW THAT THE FRENCH SHOULD HAVE A SUITABLE RESIDENCE FOR THEIR AMBASSADOR IN EAST BERLIN BEFORE GETTING TO THE STAGE OF GRANTING AGREEMENT. SIMILARLY, REPORTS FROM LONDON INDICATED NO GREAT NEED FOR SPEED TO APPOINT A UK AMBASSADOR. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WAS THEREFORE FAIRLY RE-CONFIDENTIAL

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LAXED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS OF MAINTAINING UNIFIED TRIPARTITE RANKS ON THE AMBASSADORIAL ISSUE.

8. OUR SOURCE SAID THAT THE FRENCH HAD ALSO BEEN UPSET OVER THE PERSON THE GDR HAD PROPOSED AS AMBASSADOR IN PARIS, DEPUTY FONMIN ERNST SCHOLZ. SCHOLZ IS REPORTEDLY A FAIRLY GRACIOUS GENTLEMAN OF A LIBERAL BOURGEOIS BACKGROUND, BUT WITHOUT ANY POLITICAL WEIGHT WHATSOEVER IN EAST BERLIN. THE FRENCH ARE APPARENTLY AWARE OF THIS AND FEEL THEY ARE BEING SLIGHTED BY BEING SENT A POLITICAL LIGHTWEIGHT.

9. CONCERNING THE MANNING OF THE GDR MISSION IN BONN, OUR SOURCE CONFIRMED THAT KOHL WOULD BE ITS HEAD, WITH HIS DEPUTY PROBABLY BEING HANS BERNHARDT (PRESENTLY DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE FRG SECTION OF THE FONOFF).

10. COMMENT. FROM OUR OWN VANTAGE POINT, WE TEND TO QUESTION WHAT IS APPARENTLY THE CHANCELLERY VIEW THAT THE GDR MAY BE PREPARED TO MOVE ON THE MISSIONS' ISSUE REASONABLY SOON UNDER SOVIET PRESSURE. WE SEE LITTLE OF ADVANTAGE EITHER TO THE SOVIETS OR THE GDR IN PRESSING AHEAD ON THIS MATTER. THE GDR NOW HAS BASICALLY WHAT IT WANTS, I.E., GENERAL INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION AND UN MEMBERSHIP, AND IS PROBABLY NOW PREPARED TO TAKE ITS OWN TIME ABOUT THE MISSIONS WITH THE AIM OF PRESSURING THE FRG TO ACCEPT ALL THE GDR REQUIREMENTS. MOREOVER, THE SOVIETS WOULD NOT SEEM TO HAVE MUCH CAUSE TO LEAN ON THE GDR. THE ISSUE OF THE MISSION IS NOT OF A DIMENSION TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ON EAST-WEST DETENTE EFFORTS. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MAY THEREFORE BE IN FOR A LONGER AND MORE FRUSTRATING TIME WITH THE EAST GERMANS ON THE MISSIONS THAN IT NOW CONSIDERS LIKELY.

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